

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

ON THE MAINLAND FORMS OF THE EASTERN
DEERMOUSE, *PEROMYSCUS LEUCOPUS*
(RAFINESQUE).

BY EDGAR A. MEARNs.

Peromyscus leucopus was originally described by Rafinesque from specimens taken during a journey through "the lower parts of the Ohio, the Wabash, Green River, Barrens, Prairies, and the states of Indiana, Illinois, &c." Kentucky is generally considered to be the type locality.* Specimens from Lexington, Kentucky, collected by the writer and assumed to be typical, are found to agree with those from other parts of the austral zone east of the Mississippi River; but, in the transition zone, fairly well-marked geographical races occur in New York and New England in the East, and in Minnesota in the West. The range of the species does not extend beyond the northern boundary of the transition zone, but meets with that of *Peromyscus canadensis* at the lower edge of the boreal zone. In these forms, which may be recognized by the following descriptions, the under surfaces are white with more or less gray

*In a letter "dated at Louisville, Falls of Ohio, 20th July, 1818", published in the American Monthly Magazine, Vol. III, September, 1818, p. 354, Rafinesque states respecting "Quadrupeds": "I have discovered and described 3 new species: 1. *Musculus leucopus*; 2. *Gerbillus Sylvaticus*; and, 3. *Noctilio mystax*, Raf."

at the base of the hair, and the general color above is broccoli-brown in summer, and cinnamon or yellowish wood-brown finely sprinkled with black in winter.

***Peromyscus leucopus leucopus* (Rafinesque).**

KENTUCKY DEERMOUSE.

In summer coated with short hairs: color broccoli-brown above, finely sprinkled with black, sparsely on the sides and thickly in a broad median dorsal area: ears scantily coated, hair brown, with scarcely perceptible hoary edges: eyelids bordered with black: feet scantily coated, the skin appearing between the hairs: tail plainly showing annuli above and below, and so scantily coated that it does not appear distinctly bicolored or slightly penciled at tip: underparts gray partly concealed by white tips to the hairs.

In winter more heavily coated: color yellowish wood-brown above, white below, with the gray underfur appearing between the white tips of the hairs: tail very slightly penciled, not very sharply bicolored, and with annuli seldom wholly concealed: feet and ears not well coated.

Measurements.—Total length, 180 mm.: caudal vertebræ, 80: hind foot, 21: ear above crown, 12.5.

***Peromyscus leucopus noveboracensis* (Fischer).**

NEW YORK DEERMOUSE.

In summer the whole animal is more heavily coated than in true *leucopus*, the skin of the feet being concealed by the hair: tail bicolor, with annuli usually concealed, and the tip well penciled: ears also a little more heavily coated: upperparts wood-brown instead of broccoli-brown.

In winter the coat is very full and long: tail moderately penciled, sharply bicolor, heavily coated, with the annuli entirely concealed: ears and feet well coated, the former with hoary edges and almost bushy at base, and the latter pure white: upperparts yellowish wood-brown: ears and upperparts generally more decidedly lined with black: pelage of underparts very dense, and white almost to the base.

Measurements.—Length, 185 mm.: tail vertebræ, 85: hind foot, 21: ear above crown, 13.5.

***Peromyscus leucopus minnesotæ* subsp. nov.**

MINNESOTA DEERMOUSE.

Type.—No. 82,717, United States National Museum Collection. Adult female, collected at Fort Snelling, Hennepin County, Minnesota, November 30, 1890, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original No. 1181.

Characters.—Form stout; ears small, hairy on anterior half of outer surface; color decidedly paler than in the eastern forms; a whitish tuft, in winter, at anterior base of ear; pelage intermediate in length between the two eastern forms; skull as in the typical form.

Color in summer.—Upperparts light bistre, sparingly lined with black hairs; ears with outer surface sepia, hairy anteriorly and almost naked posteriorly, thinly coated with grayish hairs on inner surface, and faintly hoary on edge; feet and tail so scantily clothed that the skin and annuli are visible between the hairs; tail slightly penciled; gray of underparts partially concealed by white-tipped hairs.

In winter the upperparts are cinnamon, coarsely but sparsely lined with black; ears light brown instead of sepia, with a slight tuft of whitish hair at the base anteriorly, and with faint hoary rims; underparts white, the gray underfur being concealed; feet and tail moderately hairy, the latter slightly penciled.

Young mouse-gray above, grayish white below; ears slate-black on anterior band, grayish posteriorly, very faintly edged with hoary; tail hair-brow above, white below.

Measurements.—Length, 175 mm.; tail vertebrae, 75; hind foot, 21.5; ear above crown, 11.5.